

Group IV, claims 63-72, drawn to graft modified ethylene (co)polymer composition;

Group V, claims 73-77, drawn to an ethylene (co)polymer composition; and

Group VI, claims 54-57, drawn to a molded product.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-43, with traverse.

The composition of Group III should be considered together with the copolymer of Group I as this does not raise undue burden for the Examiner. Certainly, if the underlying copolymer is novel and non-obvious, then a composition containing the same copolymer should be novel and non-obvious and considered together with the underlying copolymer. Similarly, a use of the underlying polymer as in Group VI should be considered together with the underlying polymer. If the underlying copolymer is found to be novel and non-obvious, then any use thereof should be patentable as well for the same reason(s). Thus, at least Groups I, II and IV should be considered together since there is no undue burden on the Examiner.

Response to Election of Species Requirement

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. The Examiner requires Applicants to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species that are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowed generic claim.

Accordingly, Applicants elect ethylene (co)polymer (A1) in response to the election of species requirement. At least claims 1-12 are readable upon the elected species.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner (Reg. No. 32,181) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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✓ By 

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